

Substitute drawings, which comply with the "Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review", according to 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.84 and 1.152, have been submitted to the Official Draftsperson contemporaneous with this response. Copies of the substituted drawings are herewith enclosed. A Petition to the Commissioner, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.144 and 1.181, petitioning the Commissioner to review the Examiner's requirement to elect only a single persephin sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) is filed contemporaneous with this response.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The claims of the application have been amended herein as indicated in the marked up copies of the claims.

1. (Amended) A polypeptide [growth factor] which activates GFR α 1-RET but does not substantially activate GFR α 2-RET or GFR α 3-RET, wherein

(a) said polypeptide comprises a persephin as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3, and further comprises substitutions in region F2a and substitutions in region F2c,

(b) the substitutions in region F2a comprise from one to eight amino acids that are either identical to region F2a of a GDNF family ligand, or contain conservative amino acid substitutions of region F2a of a GDNF family ligand,

(c) the substitutions in region F2c comprise from one to eight amino acids that are either identical to region F2c of a GDNF family ligand, or contain conservative amino acid substitutions of region F2a of a GDNF family ligand,

(d) the GDNF family ligand is a peptide selected from the list consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 and SEQ ID NO:10.

5. (Amended) The polypeptide [growth factor] of claim 1 [4], comprising SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, or SEQ ID NO:16.

6. (Amended) The polypeptide [growth factor] of claim 1 [4], wherein the substituted persephin comprises a human persephin as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 with substitutions for amino acid residues 63-66 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 and SEQ ID NO:19, and substitutions for amino acid residues 76-82 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, and SEQ ID NO:22.